Allocation of coal mines to private companies

1645. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has allocated captive coal mines to a host of private companies and operators;

(b) the number of such captive coal mines leased out during the last four years and the details of their locations, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has set targets of production and revenue for such captive coal mines;

(d) whether the captive coal mines are just lying idle; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to retrieve the coal mines immediately and protect a national resource?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of captive coal blocks allocated to the private companies during the last four years and the details of their location, State-wise is given below:-

State of location of coal block	No of coal blocks allocated to private companies			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Jharkhand	11	3	7	4
Chhattisgarh	7	-	5	3
Maharashtra	4	2	1	2
Orissa	5	4	3	2
Madhya Pradesh	-	4	4	3
West Bengal	-	1	1	-
TOTAL :	27	14	21	14

(c) As per the guidelines, coal production from a coal block should commence within 36 months (42 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of open cast mines and in 48 months (54 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of under ground mine, from the date of allocation. If the coal block is not explored, additional two years are allowed for detailed exploration and preparation of geological report. So far, production from 25 coal blocks has commenced. Extraction of coal from these coal blocks would be done over the life span of the said blocks, which would be determined when the mining plans are prepared and approved. The coal blocks are allotted for captive use and the Central Government does not earn any revenue out of the allocations made.

(d) and (e) The coal blocks allocated are in various stages of development *viz.* obtaining statutory clearances and mining lease, preparing mining plan, acquisition of land, procuring machinery and equipment etc. for both mining as well as end-use project. Further, the progress of

development of coal blocks and end use projects of the allocattee companies are monitored and reviewed from time to time by the Ministry of Coal. The last such review meeting was held on 22nd and 23rd June, 2009.

Illegal coal mining

1646. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the concrete steps taken to stop illegal mining of coal, either by extraction of coal without obtaining a valid mining lease or by mining in areas outside the lease-hold areas of coal companies;

(b) whether the extant laws are adequate to deal with coal mafia or any amendments or enactment of fresh laws are on the anvil; and

(c) whether the successful Chinese model of co-operative mining is being considered to maximize the extraction of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The following steps are being taken by the Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiary companies to prevent illegal mining within their command areas:

(i) Rat holes created by illegal mining are being dozed off and filled up with stone and debris wherever possible.

(ii) Concrete walls have been erected on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.

(iii) Regular raids/checks being conducted by security personnel and static security pickets including armed guards during the night hours are being deployed at pithead depots.

(iv) Surprise raids/checks being conducted jointly by security personnel and law and order authorities of the concerned State Government.

(v) Fencing is being constructed at the various illegal mining sites along with displaying of signboards mentioning "Dangerous and Prohibited Place".

(vi) Dumping of overburden is being done on the outcrop zones, which are not required to be mined.

(vii) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action.

(viii) Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents.

(ix) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training of new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security setup.

(x) The coal companies maintain close liaison with the State Authorities.

(xi) Committee/Task Force have been constituted at different levels (block level, sub-divisional level, district level, State level) at some subsidiaries of CIL to monitor different aspects of illegal mining.